

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8-51 and 53-57 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 8-51 and 53-57 are amended and claims 5-7 and 52 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 52 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 5-7 and 52, respectively, and all claims are amended for clarity and/or to correct informalities. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 8, 9, 14-16, 19-29, 31, 32, 34, 36 and 37 recite allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if amended to incorporate the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant submits that all claims recite allowable subject matter for the reasons discussed below.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 12, 13, 18, 26 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is obviated by the above amendments. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 10-13, 46-50 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Stockton, U.S. Patent No. 2,684,087. The rejection of canceled claim 52 is moot. The rejection of claims 1, 3, 10-13 and 46-50 is respectfully traversed.

With respect to independent claim 1, the Office Action does not reject the features of claim 7 (now incorporated into independent claim 1) over Stockton. Therefore, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 3, 10-13 and 46-48 are patentable over Stockton for at least this reason.

With respect to independent claim 49, Stockton does not disclose that an external wall of a shaping drum has at least one concave portion and/or at least one indentation and a process of shaping by winding around the shaping drum is effected by means of a

corresponding number of devices designed to apply a wire against the portion of the external wall, as recited in independent claim 49.

Stockton discloses a machine for making wire fabric where wire is fed into a cylinder 20 through extending arm portion 31 (see Fig. 1). The wire in Stockton is bent into the shape of a circle by being pressed against the inner surface of cylinder 20 (see Fig. 1). However, the cylinder 20 of Stockton does not correspond to the claimed shaping drum because an external wall of cylinder 20 does not have any concave portion and/or at least one indentation. Further, Stockton does not disclose any devices that apply a wire against an external wall of cylinder 20. Therefore, Stockton does not disclose that an external wall of a shaping drum has at least one concave portion and/or at least one indentation and a process of shaping by winding around the shaping drum is effected by means of a corresponding number of devices designed to apply a wire against the portion of the external wall, as recited in independent claim 49. Therefore, independent claim 49 and dependent claim 50 are patentable over Stockton. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 4-7, 17, 18, 30, 33 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stockton in view of Eichler, U.S. Patent No. 4,478,260. The rejection of canceled claims 5-7 is moot. The rejection of claims 4, 17, 18, 30, 33 and 35 is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Stockton and Eichler does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, a means for constraining a wire so that the wire conforms to the shape of a shaping drum, the means being provided at a periphery of the shaping drum, and the movement of the means being synchronised with a winding movement of the wire, as now recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action acknowledges that Stockton fails to disclose the above features of claim 7 that are now incorporated into independent claim 1, but cites Eichler as allegedly overcoming the deficiency. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that collapsible mandrel 58

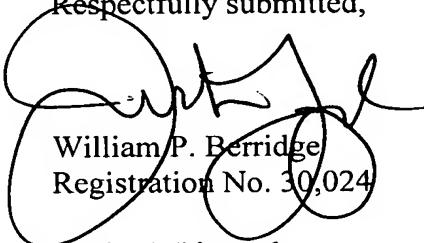
of Eichler corresponds to the claimed shaping drum. However, collapsible mandrel 58 is not a drum, but rather is just a collapsible mandrel. Further, collapsible mandrel 58 does not render possible any radial shaping of the wire. The Office Action asserts that pegs 88 correspond to the claimed means for constraining a wire and that guide members 92 correspond to the claimed concave surfaces. However, the guide members 92 are for holding the wire looped over arms 72 and pegs 88 merely serve as guides for the wire strand as it is coiled helically around the mandrel (see Fig. 5). Further, pegs 88 of Eichler are fixed to the arms 72 of the mandrel. As such, the pegs 88 cannot be considered as being capable of having a movement that is synchronized with a winding movement of a wire. Therefore, the combination of Stockton and Eichler does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, a means for constraining a wire so that the wire conforms to the shape of a shaping drum, the means being provided at a periphery of the shaping drum, and the movement of the means being synchronized with a winding movement of the wire, as now recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over the combination of Stockton and Eichler. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 42-45, 51 and 53-57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stockton in view of Smith et al. (Smith), U.S. Patent No. 4,911,209; and rejects claims 38-41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stockton in view of Decoux, U.S. Patent No. 4,605,046. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Because claims 2, 38-45, 51 and 53-57 incorporate the features of independent claims 1 and 49, respectively, and because Smith and Decoux fail to overcome the deficiencies of Stockton and Eichler, these claims also are patentable over the applied references for at least these reasons, as well as for the additional features that these claims recite. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024
Justin T. Lingard
Registration No. 61,276

WPB:JTL/emd

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 27, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--